

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A manager server comprising:

a network adapter to connect the manager server to a network, the network including a plurality of storage servers, the plurality of storage servers implementing a plurality of data replication relationships; and

a storage facility to contain a data structure representing the plurality of data replication relationships to enable a user to centrally manage the plurality of data replication relationships.
2. The manager server of claim 1, wherein the data structure enables the user to centrally manage the plurality of data replication relationships by allowing the user to apply one of a plurality of replication policies to each data replication relationship.
3. The manager server of claim 2, wherein each data replication relationship comprises a data source and a data destination, and at least one replication policy comprises an update schedule that specifies how often the data source should be replicated at the data destination.
4. The manager server of claim 3, wherein at least one replication policy comprises a throttle that specifies an amount of bandwidth that a scheduled data replication can consume.

5. The manager server of claim 2, wherein the manager server uses the network adapter to update the data replication relationships implemented by the plurality of storage servers based on the replication policy applied to each data replication relationship.
6. The manager server of claim 1, wherein the manager server uses the network adapter to update the data structure based on changes in the data replication relationships implemented by the plurality of storage servers.
7. The manager server of claim 1, wherein the data structure comprises a database.
8. The manager server of claim 1, wherein allowing the user to centrally manage the plurality of data replication relationships comprises providing a graphical user interface to the data structure.
9. The manager server of claim 8, wherein the graphical user interface allows a user author replication policies that can be applied to one or more of the plurality of data replication relationships.
10. The manager server of claim 1, wherein the storage servers comprise file servers.

11. A method comprising:
- creating a replication policy that specifies one or more attributes of a data replication transfer; and
 - applying the replication policy to a plurality of data replication relationships being implemented by a plurality of storage servers.
12. The method of claim 11, wherein applying the replication policy to the plurality of data replication relationships comprises associating the replication policy to the plurality of data replication relationships in a data structure stored in a central storage facility.
13. A method performed by a central manager server, the method comprising:
- connecting to a network, the network including a plurality of storage servers, the plurality of storage servers implementing a plurality of data replication relationships; and
 - enabling a user to centrally manage the plurality of data replication relationships.
14. The method of claim 13, wherein enabling the user to centrally manage the plurality of data replication relationships comprises providing a data structure that allows the user to apply one of a plurality of replication policies to each data replication relationship.
15. The method of claim 14, wherein each data replication relationship comprises a data source and a data destination, and at least one replication policy comprises an update schedule that specifies how often the data source should be replicated at the data destination.

16. The method of claim 14, wherein at least one replication policy comprises a throttle that specifies an amount of bandwidth that a scheduled data replication can consume.
17. The method of claim 14, further comprising updating the data structure based on changes in the data replication relationships implemented by the plurality of storage servers.
18. The method of claim 13, further comprising updating the data replication relationships implemented by the plurality of storage servers based on the replication policy applied to each data replication relationship.
19. The method of claim 13, wherein the data structure comprises a database.
20. A network comprising:
a plurality of storage servers, the plurality of storage servers implementing a plurality of data replication relationships; and
a manager server to enable a user to centrally manage the plurality of data replication relationships.
21. The network of claim 20, wherein the manager server comprises a storage facility containing a data structure representing the plurality of data replication relationships.
22. The network of claim 21, wherein the data structure enables the user to centrally manage the plurality of data replication relationships by allowing the user to apply one of a plurality of replication policies to each data replication relationship.

23. The network of claim 22, wherein each data replication relationship comprises a data source and a data destination, and at least one replication policy comprises an update schedule that specifies how often the data source should be replicated at the data destination.
24. The network of claim 23, wherein at least one replication policy comprises a throttle that specifies an amount of bandwidth that a scheduled data replication can consume.
25. The network of claim 22, wherein the manager server updates the data replication relationships implemented by the plurality of storage servers based on the replication policy applied to each data replication relationship.
26. The network of claim 21, wherein the data structure comprises a database.
27. The network of claim 20, wherein the plurality of storage servers comprise file servers.